

# Introduction

**N**OAA's NWS provides weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters, and ocean areas. In performing this critical mission, the NWS helps protect life and property and enhances the national economy.

NOAA customers demand increasingly reliable and specific weather, water, and climate information to make key decisions. These customers, including industry, state and local governments, and emergency managers, have multiple demands, all of which point to the need to sustain and improve NWS observing, forecasting, and warning services.

NWS data forms a national and international information infrastructure used by other Government agencies, the private sector, the university community, the public, and the global community. Some 90 percent of all presidentially declared disasters are weather related causing approximately 500 deaths and \$11 billion in damage annually. Weather is directly linked to public safety and about one-third of the U.S. economy (about \$3 trillion) is weather sensitive.

This publication, NSIP 05, compiles expected changes in NWS services for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005. NSIP is designed to quantify and explain planned changes to the public. NSIP 05 is a living document with regular updates made available at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/nsip.shtml>. See the most recent updates by clicking on the "What's New" section on the NSIP page.

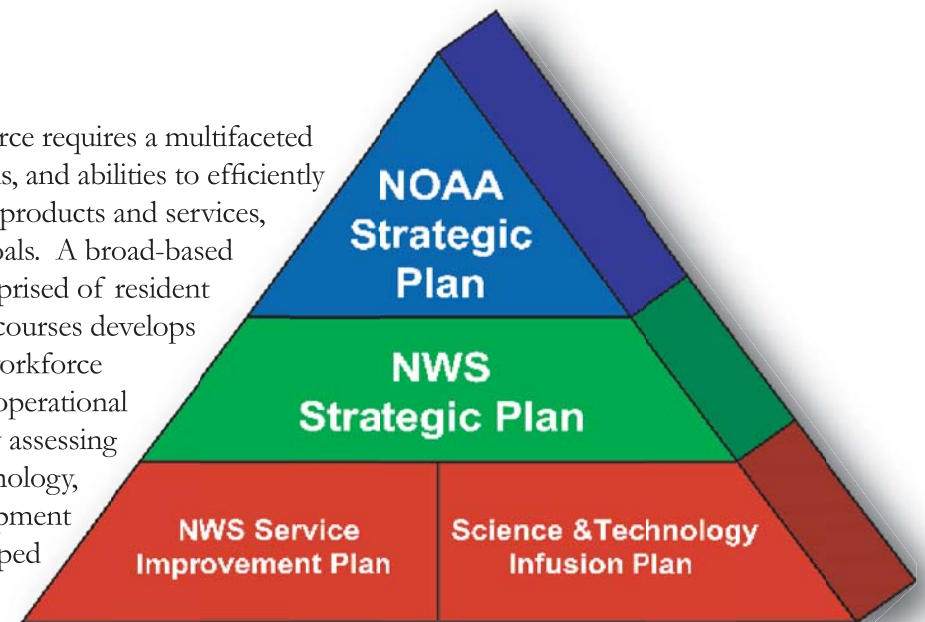
## GPRA Goals

The NWS establishes and tracks key service performance improvement goals, and has been recognized as a leader in performance-based management for delivering these goals. NWS goals, supporting the 1993 Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), are referenced and charted within the NSIP, and are submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). GPRA goals represent some of our tangible, measurable objectives. You can find more information on GPRA, at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/mgmt-gpra/gplaw2m.html>.

## Training

The NWS workforce requires a multifaceted set of knowledge, skills, and abilities to efficiently and effectively deliver products and services, and to meet GPRA goals. A broad-based training program comprised of resident and distance learning courses develops the expertise of our workforce and directly supports operational readiness. By annually assessing evolving science, technology, and workforce development needs, we have developed a training program needed to prepare our workforce for new

and updated services. A substantial portion of the web-based training materials used by NWS staff is available to the public on our Training Portal web site at <http://www.nwstc.noaa.gov/nwstrn>.



*A trilogy of NWS documents complement the NOAA Strategic Plan.*

## Related Publications

Two NWS documents are referenced throughout this publication: The NWS Strategic Plan and the NWS Science and Technology Infusion Plan (STIP).

## Strategic Plan

The NWS Strategic Plan identifies high-level goals, activities, and priorities for FYs 2005-2010. The NWS Strategic Plan is available at

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/sp/>. The goals of the NWS Strategic Plan parallel the NOAA Strategic Plan. The complete NOAA Strategic Plan is available at <http://www.spo.noaa.gov/>.

- ✓ Goal I: Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystems-based management.
- ✓ Goal II: Understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond.
- ✓ Goal III: Serve society's needs for weather and water information.

- ✓ Goal IV: Support the Nation's commerce with information for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation.

## STIP

The NWS STIP, published in January, 2004, looks into the future and explains how science and technology may evolve NWS products and services. It defines long term strategies, objectives, and programs. The STIP illustrates how the NWS plans to leverage scientific opportunities beyond the next ten years. The STIP is posted at <http://www.weather.gov/ost>.

## NSIP 2005

NSIP 05 translates the STIP and the NWS Strategic Plan visions into specific service improvements. This plan is based on the President's FY 2005 budget request to Congress. Contingent upon congressional funding, the NWS Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services (OCWWS) will guide development of new products and services, as outlined in NSIP 05.

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